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DWD SECRETARY ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF LABOR ECONOMIST

Madison – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced the selection of Dennis K. Winters as Director of DWD's Office of Economic Advisors.

Winters is currently the Vice President and Director of Research for NorthStar Economics, Inc., and has more than 25 years in economic analysis, modeling and forecasting experience, encompassing a broad spectrum from commodity derivatives to long-term policy initiatives. His background includes proficiency in regional and national macroeconomics, labor force issues, and energy markets. He has served as an advisor to private industry, government agencies and elected officials at local, state and federal levels.

Winters has provided expert analysis and given numerous presentations on Wisconsin's economic and labor force status to audiences throughout the state and country.

"Dennis Winters is an excellent choice to run the Office of Economic Advisors," said Secretary Gassman. "Given his extensive understanding of economics, his background in research and his leadership on several economic studies, he is the ideal candidate to lead the office that is in charge of the state's labor market information. His expertise on economic measures and labor force issues will serve the state well."

Winters will begin working three-quarters time in November, and begin working full time in January 2007. Winters earned his Master of Science in Economics from Colorado State University and his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Office of Economic Advisors includes twelve labor market analysts. The Office assists economic data users to better understand the relationships between labor markets and other economic and demographic specifics. The Office helps users interpret labor force data and focus on the issues and trends influencing employment growth in the State of Wisconsin.